

Serial No. 10/023,746
Amendment dated April 20, 2006
Reply to Office Action of January 27, 2006

Docket No. K-0372

REMARKS

Entry of the amended claims is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since the amendments: (1) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (2) do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration (since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution without incorporating additional subject matter); (3) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; and/or (4) place the application in better form for appeal (if necessary). Entry is thus requested.

By the present response, Applicant has canceled claim 17 without disclaimer. Further, Applicant has amended claims 2, 16 and 18-20 to further clarify the invention. Claims 2, 4, 13-16 and 18-20 remain pending in the present application. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

In the Office Action, Claims 2, 17, and 20 are objected to for informalities. Claims 18-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claims 2, 4, and 13-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,909,378 (Lambrechts).

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Response to Arguments

In the “Response to Arguments” section of the Office Action, the Examiner maintains that Lambrecht et al. discloses a remote controller including a display unit, the display unit displaying various remote controller function keys and a list of electronic apparatus, at col. 6, line 60-col. 70, line 9. However, these portions merely disclose that “the command codes learned by the universal remoter controller may also be suitable to control the remote control itself. For example, the universal remote control may have a programmable user-interface presented on a liquid crystal display.” This is not a display unit displaying various remote controller function keys and a list of electronic apparatus, as recited in the claims of the present application. These portions of Lambrecht et al. merely relate to the universal remote control having an LCD to initiate learned command codes to control the remote control itself. These portions do not disclose or suggest a display unit on the remote controller displaying a list of electronic apparatus.

Claim Objections

Claims 2, 17, and 20 have been objected to because of informalities. Applicant has amended these claims to further clarify the invention and respectfully request that these objections be withdrawn.

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35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejections

Claims 18-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicant has amended these claims to further clarify the invention and respectfully request that these rejections be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

Claims 2, 4, and 13-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lambrecht et al. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Lambrecht et al. discloses upgrading a universal remote control with a command code of an electronic appliance. The command code is downloaded from an internet server into a personal computer or set-top box, which is coupled to an infrared transmitter. The universal remote control is placed in front of the infrared transmitter and the command code is transferred to the universal remote control, for example in response to the user indicating a key, shown in a displayed picture of a control panel of the electronic appliance and associated with the command code.

Regarding claim 2, Applicant submits that Lambrecht et al. does not disclose suggest or render obvious the limitations in the combination of this claim of, *inter alia*, a remote controller that includes a communication module configured to receive remote controller information for a plurality of electronic apparatus from the electronic apparatus, or a display unit including an image process circuit and a display window, the display unit displaying various remote controller

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function keys and a list of the plurality of electronic apparatus. The Examiner asserts that Lambrecht et al. discloses a display unit displaying lists, at col. 2, lines 34-46. However, these portions merely disclose, as the Examiner notes, displaying a list of commands to the user. Further, this list is displayed on a display screen of the data processing device. This is not a remote controller including a display unit displaying a list of a plurality of electronic apparatuses, as recited in the claims of the present application.

The Examiner then admits that Lambrecht et al. does not disclose or suggest lists displayed on the display unit being lists of electronic apparatuses, but asserts that this would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art. Applicant respectfully disagrees and asserts that the Examiner appears to be using impermissible hindsight in reading the limitations in the claims of the present application back into the cited reference. Lambrecht is merely directed to upgrading a universal remote control with a command code of a single electronic appliance. In contrast, the limitations in the claims of the present application relate to a universal remote controller that includes a display unit for displaying a list of a plurality of electronic apparatuses. One of ordinary skill in the art would have no motivation to modify Lambrecht et al. with the limitations of the claims of the present application since Lambrecht is directed to upgrading a remote control with a command code of a single electronic apparatus.

Moreover, Applicant submits that Lambrecht does not disclose or suggest a remote controller with a communication module that receives remote controller information for a

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plurality of electronic apparatuses from the electronic apparatus. As noted previously, Lambrecht et al, is merely directed to the upgrading of a universal remote control for controlling a specific electronic appliance. Lambrecht et al. does not disclose or suggest these limitations in the claims of the present application.

Regarding claims 4 and 13-16 and 18-20, Applicant submits that these claims are dependent on independent claim 2 and, therefore, are patentable at least for the same reasons noted previously regarding this independent claim.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that Lambrecht et al does not disclose suggest or render obvious the limitations in the combination of each of claims 2, 4, 13-16, and 18-20 of the present application. Applicant respectfully requests that these rejections be withdrawn and these claims be allowed.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that claims 2, 4, 13-16 and 18-20 are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of such claims is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, Frederick D. Bailey, at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
FLESHNER & KIM, LLP



Daniel Y.J. Kim
Registration No. 36,186
Frederick D. Bailey
Registration No. 42,282

P.O. Box 221200
Chantilly, Virginia 20153-1200
703 766-3701 DYK/FDB:tlg

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Please direct all correspondence to Customer Number 34610